

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated March 18, 2009 in which claims 1, 4-18 and 20 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 12 and 18 have been amended, claims 4-6 have been cancelled and the remaining claims are unchanged. Claim 24 has been added as a new claim in the application. No new matter has been added as a result of the claim amendments and the new claim. Claims 2-3, 19 and 21-23 were previously canceled. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims in view of the above-amendments and the following remarks.

I. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended to clarify that the uniform interface and its set of defined options are not a part of a user interface. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, in FIG. 2 of the application, which shows a report designer and viewer 208 that serves as the user interface and uniform interface 206 is independent of the user interface (report designer and viewer 208). A significant part of the disclosure relates to using a uniform interface that is separate and independent of any particular user interface and any particular database. Support for other modifications to claim 1 and for new claim 24 can be found, for example, on page 14 of the specification.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS

In Section 9 of the Office Action, claims 1, 4-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Majeed, U.S. Patent No. 7,203,660 in view of Thompson et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,668,253.

FIG. 17 of Majeed shows a user interface screen with which selections can be made. This has nothing to do with the claimed “uniform interface that is independent of any user interface, having a set of defined options that are independent of any user interface options.” In fact, the entire Majeed reference includes nothing about this claim 1 feature. Thompson also includes nothing about a uniform interface that is independent of any user interface, having a set of defined options that are independent of any user interface options.

Further, Majeed includes nothing about “the at least one staging table comprises an account staging table that is capable of storing data related to accounts for an entity, a balance staging table that is capable of storing data related to requested balance information and a column-filter staging table capable of storing data related to filtered accounts,” and “the accessed data obtained from the general ledger database, stored in the at least one staging table, and returned to the report object comprises data from the account staging table, the balance staging table and the column-filter staging table.”

Thompson utilizes a transformation and staging server 108 to consolidate information from multiple general ledger databases or financial systems (for example, FIG. 1 of Thompson shows information from two financial systems 107 and 110 being consolidated by transformation and staging server 108). Since the reporting systems of Thompson get their information from transformation and staging server 108, which is only shown as an element that consolidates information from multiple financial systems, Thompson is unrelated to the claim 1 feature of the accessed data obtained from the general ledger database (single general ledger database), stored in the at least one staging table, and returned to the report object comprises data from the account staging table, the balance staging table and the column-filter staging table. In general, Thompson does not make up for the deficiencies of Majeed. Thus, claim 1 is believed to be allowable over the cited art.

Independent claim 18 includes elements similar to those included in independent claim 1. Thus, claim 18 is believed to be allowable for the same reasons as those provided in connection with claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that the dependent claims are also allowable at least by virtue of their dependency, either directly or indirectly, from the allowable independent claims. Further, Applicants note that the dependent claims include numerous elements which are not shown or suggested by the Majeed and Thompson references.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims 1, 7-18, 20 and 24. Favorable action upon all claims is solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: /Alan G. Rego/
Alan G. Rego, Reg. No. 45,956
900 Second Avenue South, Suite 1400
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319
Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312

AGR/dmm